**In the Claims:**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, please cancel claims 2 and 3, amend claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 14 and 19, and add new claims 26 and 27, as indicated herein. A complete listing of all claims in the application is provided immediately below.

## COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

1. (Currently amended) A connector port for use in an optical network and adapted for a network interface device, the connector port comprising:

a connector receptacle for optically connecting a connectorized optical fiber from inside the network interface device to a pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable from outside the network interface device; and

a mount for securing the connector receptacle to the network interface device and for engaging a drop cable opening defined by an external wall of the network interface device;

wherein the connector receptacle is located inside the network interface device and the connector receptacle receives an end portion of the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable inside the network interface device.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) The connector port according to claim 1, wherein the connector port is operable to permit a ~~filed~~ field technician to readily connect, disconnect and reconfigure the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable from outside the network interface device without the need for splicing.

5. (Currently amended) An exterior connector port for use in an optical network and adapted for mounting adjacent a drop cable opening defined by an external wall of a network interface device to optically connect a connectorized optical fiber from inside the network interface device to a pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable from outside the network interface device, the exterior connector port comprising:

a base having means for securing the base to the external wall of the network interface device adjacent the drop cable opening;

a cover positioned over the base such that the base and the cover define an enclosure;

a connector port receptacle secured to the base within the enclosure defined by the base and the cover; and

a slot formed in at least one of the base and the cover for receiving an end portion of the pre-connectorized drop cable;

wherein the exterior connector port is operable to permit a ~~filed~~ field technician to readily connect, disconnect and reconfigure the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable from outside the network interface device without the need for splicing.

6. (Original) The exterior connector port according to claim 5, wherein the base is secured to the external wall of the network interface device by inserting at least one tab defined by the external wall into at least one slot provided on the base.

7. (Original) The exterior connector port according to claim 5, wherein the connector receptacle is secured to the base by one of a threaded nut, a snap-fit and a press-fit.

8. (Original) The exterior connector port according to claim 5, wherein the connector receptacle is accessible to the field technician only when a service provider access door provided on the network interface device is opened and the cover is removed from over the base.

9. (Original) The exterior connector port according to claim 5, further comprising a connector adapter sleeve disposed within the connector receptacle for aligning the connectorized optical fiber with an optical fiber of the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable.

10. (Currently amended) An interior connector port for use in an optical network and adapted for a network interface device to optically connect a connectorized optical fiber from inside the network interface device to a pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable from outside the network interface device, the interior connector port comprising:

a bracket mounted inside the network interface device; and

a connector receptacle secured to the bracket, the connector receptacle comprising a first end for receiving the connectorized optical fiber and a second end for receiving the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable;

wherein the interior connector port is operable to permit a ~~filed~~ field technician to readily connect, disconnect and reconfigure the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable from inside the network interface device without the need for splicing.

11. (Original) The interior connector port according to claim 10, wherein the connector receptacle is accessible to the field technician only when a service provider access door provided on the network interface device is opened.

12. (Original) The interior connector port according to claim 10, further comprising a connector adapter sleeve disposed within the connector receptacle for aligning the connectorized optical fiber with an optical fiber of the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable and for maintaining the connectorized optical fiber and the optical fiber of the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable in physical contact.

13. (Original) A connector port for use in an optical network and adapted for a network interface device to optically connect a connectorized optical fiber from inside the network interface device to a pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable from outside the network interface device, the connector port comprising:

an insert positioned within a drop cable opening defined by an external wall of the network interface device;

a connector receptacle secured to the insert; and

a passageway formed through the insert for receiving and guiding the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable into the network interface device.

14. (Currently amended) The connector port according to claim 13, wherein the connector port is operable to permit a ~~filed~~ field technician to readily connect, disconnect and reconfigure the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable from inside the network interface device without the need for splicing.

15. (Original) The connector port according to claim 13, wherein the connector receptacle is located outside the network interface device and the connector receptacle receives an end portion of the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable outside the network interface device.

16. (Original) The connector port according to claim 13, wherein the connector receptacle is located inside the network interface device and the connector receptacle receives an end portion of the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable inside the network interface device.

17. (Original) The connector port according to claim 13, further comprising a connector adapter sleeve disposed within the connector receptacle for aligning the connectorized optical fiber with an optical fiber of the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable.

18. (Original) The connector port according to claim 13, wherein the insert defines at least one slot for engaging at least one tab provided on the external wall of the network interface device.

19. (Currently amended) A network interface device for use in an optical network to optically connect a connectorized optical fiber from inside the network interface device to a pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable from outside the network interface device, the network interface device comprising:

a housing comprising an external wall and defining an interior cavity;

a drop cable opening defined by the external wall;

an insert positioned within the drop cable opening defined by the external wall; and

a connector receptacle aligned with the drop cable opening;

wherein the connector receptacle is operable to permit a ~~filed~~ field technician to readily connect, disconnect and reconfigure the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable without the need for splicing.

20. (Original) The network interface device according to claim 19, further comprising a connector adapter sleeve disposed within the connector receptacle port and biased for maintaining the connectorized optical fiber with an optical fiber of the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable in physical contact.

21. (Original) The network interface device according to claim 19, wherein the insert comprises a base and the connector receptacle is mounted to the base adjacent the external wall.

22. (Original) The network interface device according to claim 19, wherein the connector receptacle is located inside the network interface device and wherein a passageway is formed through the insert for receiving and guiding an end portion of the pre-connectorized fiber optic cable into the connector receptacle from outside the network interface device.

23. (Original) The network interface device according to claim 19, wherein the connector receptacle is located outside the network interface device and wherein a passageway is formed through the insert for receiving and guiding an end portion of the connectorized optical fiber into the connector receptacle from inside the network interface device.

24. (Original) The network interface device according to claim 19, further comprising a connector adapter sleeve disposed within the connector receptacle for aligning the connectorized optical fiber with an optical fiber of the pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable.

25. (Original) The network interface device according to claim 19, wherein the connector receptacle is accessible to the field technician only when a service provider access door provided on the NID is opened.

26. (New) A network interface device for optically connecting a connectorized optical fiber to a pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable, the network interface device comprising:

a housing comprising an external wall and defining an interior cavity;

a drop cable opening formed through the external wall and defining a passageway for the drop cable into the interior cavity; and

a connector receptacle within the interior cavity for receiving the drop cable from the drop cable opening.

27. (New) A network interface device for optically connecting a connectorized optical fiber to a pre-connectorized fiber optic drop cable, the network interface device comprising:

a housing comprising an external wall and defining an interior cavity;

a drop cable opening formed through the external wall and defining a passageway for the drop cable into the interior cavity;

a connector receptacle within the interior cavity for receiving the drop cable; and

a service provider access door for preventing unauthorized access to the connector receptacle.